



FELLOW NEWS

News for and about the Coastal Management Fellows

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January 2006 Issue 28



FOCUS ON FELLOWS:

Amy Filipowicz



Located along the Merrimack River, scenic Manchester, New Hampshire, introduced Coastal Fellow Amy Filipowicz to the wonders of the ocean. Only about an hour north of Boston, Massachusetts, Manchester is known for its beautiful changes of seasons and proximity to the splendor of New Hampshire's White Mountains. At a very young age, Amy realized exactly what she wanted to do in life.

"I've known since the fourth grade that I wanted to be a marine biologist.

Growing up, I was a frequent visitor to

the New Hampshire coast, where I developed a curiosity for tide pools and a strong affection for the ocean."

As her fascination for marine life grew, Amy set her sights on something even bigger.

"Like many kids, I was obsessed with whales. My family fostered this obsession, and every year we would go on a whale watch out in the Gulf of Maine. We always went on the same boat, and over the years I got to know the biologists and staff members who worked for Granite State Whale Watch."

In her college years, Amy's passion for the ocean flourished as she earned a bachelor's degree in biology with a minor in marine science from Fairfield University, a small liberal arts school in southern Connecticut.

"Long Island Sound was a good introduction to the effects that humans can have on the marine environment and the relevance of coastal management. I was involved with a faculty research project on an invasive crab species and spent a summer on campus doing fieldwork and laboratory experiments."

Following her time at Fairfield, Amy couldn't help but spend a little more time with her first love. The summer before she left for graduate school, she worked as a naturalist for the same whale watch company she adored as a child.



NOAA Coastal Services Center
LINKING PEOPLE, INFORMATION, AND TECHNOLOGY



Amy assessing streambank conditions in New York's Adirondack region with the U.S. Geological Survey in summer 2005.



Amy (left) talking to the director of a county soil and water conservation district about stream restoration in the Catskill Mountain region of New York in fall 2004.

"It was the best job that I've had to date—and quite possibly will ever have. I still don't know how I managed to convince them to let a 22-year-old lead their cruises. It was just one of those things that was meant to be. I still try to go visit them once a year and get out on the boat."

Wanting to further her education, Amy ventured south to the College of Charleston in Charleston, South Carolina, where she earned her master's degree in marine biology. "My graduate thesis examined the relationship between upland development and the ecological health of small tidal creeks in a rapidly developing region of South Carolina.

There was a lot about New England that I missed, but I now have a very sweet spot in my heart for Charleston."

While looking on South Carolina Sea Grant's Web site, Amy learned about the Coastal Management Fellowship program, decided to apply, and was accepted to work on a two-year project to "improve habitat and water quality in streams across New York State."

"I am preparing a guidance document and resource materials detailing an ecological approach to stream protection and restoration for [coastal] managers and decision makers. This approach includes an assessment of stream and watershed conditions and problems, a review of protection and restoration techniques, and culminates with monitoring and evaluation of implemented practices." The goal of Amy's project is "a more holistic view of streams and watersheds and the utilization of natural and ecologically based solutions to common stream issues like erosion."

Though her time with the program will come to an end in July, Amy knows that the research and benefits from her project will continue long after she's gone.


"I think it will be several years before lining a stream with rock riprap is no longer the 'knee-jerk' response to erosion and instability. This guidance document, along with other ongoing efforts in New York State, is the first step toward reaching that goal and will hopefully get many of the involved stakeholders on the same page."

A major goal of the fellowship program is to provide valuable learning and growth experiences to people of various backgrounds.

"In addition to working on my fellowship project, I have gained exposure to a number of other coastal management issues, including storm water management, dredging, and the consistency review process."

Although her plans for the future are up in the air, Amy is very grateful for the opportunities she has been given, and she wouldn't change a thing.

"I have had the chance to work closely with other state and federal agencies and nonprofit groups, which has been great for someone who is still contemplating a career path. This past summer, I spent a few days each week in the field assisting the U.S. Geological Survey [USGS] with stream surveys in the Adirondacks. It was great to be out of the office and to be surrounded by the beauty of the Adirondack region. In addition, as a marine biologist working on a fellowship project about streams, I was a bit like the proverbial 'fish out of water.' I am very thankful for my time spent with USGS as it provided me with a lot of hands-on training about freshwater ecosystems."

Amy admits that her project hasn't just been about the work. Because of her research, she has been able to visit breathtaking locations and has seen much of New York State—"from Long Island, to the Catskill Mountains, to Lakes Erie and Ontario, to the Finger Lakes, to the St. Lawrence River, to the high peaks of the Adirondacks. I never realized how huge this state is and how diverse and beautiful it is!" 

For more information about New York's stream protection and restoration efforts, e-mail Amy at AFilipow@dos.state.ny.us.

FOCUS ON THE CENTER: Social Science Educational Tool

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Coastal Services Center has added a new area of expertise—social sciences. Recognizing that all the issues facing the coastal zone have a human component, the Center refocused an existing department that is now being called “Human Dimensions.”

To go along with this new initiative, the Center has created a unique educational tool, or wheel, called “Understanding the ‘Human Dimension’ of Coastal Management Using Social Science.” It provides information about many of the social science tools used to address coastal resource management issues. Federal, state, and local agencies, as well as college professors, have requested copies of the wheel to introduce their constituents and students to the benefits of understanding the human dimensions of resource management.

Check it out and “see what social science can do for you.” The wheel is available at www.csc.noaa.gov/socialscience/.

FOCUS ON THE FUTURE: Coral and Coastal Are a Fellowship Match

Starting with the April edition, *Fellow News* will provide information about the Coral Reef Management Fellowship program. Profiles, updates, and new initiatives will be featured, alongside Coastal Management Fellowship news, in all future editions. For more information, contact Margaret.Vanderwilt@noaa.gov or Elliot.Shapiro@noaa.gov.

FOCUS ON THE FELLOWSHIP: 2006 State Projects Selected

Six exciting new projects have been selected for the 2006–2008 Coastal Management Fellowship. Below is a summary of each of the six projects for the upcoming year. Recruiting efforts are well under way, but the program needs your help to spread the word to eligible applicants. Remember, applications should be submitted to area Sea Grant directors and are due no later than January 30, 2006.

California Coastal Commission

San Francisco, California

Project Goal: Develop a program for monitoring condition compliance by creating a pilot program in two of the commission’s district offices, putting the pilot in place, and assessing and modifying the pilot as necessary. Design and implement a database that will facilitate efficient monitoring of condition compliance.

Maine Coastal Program

Augusta, Maine

Project Goal: Evaluate how effective coastal towns and cities have been in implementing comprehensive plans and identify opportunities to institutionalize new approaches to manage growth in Maine’s coastal communities.

Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management

Boston, Massachusetts

Project Goal: Develop and implement planning, policy, regulatory, and technical assistance tools to improve coastal floodplain management in Massachusetts.

Ohio Office of Coastal Management

Sandusky, Ohio

Project Goal: Develop the Lake Erie Shore Erosion Management Plan (LESEMP) by synthesizing data gathered from existing shore erosion plans, identifying information gaps, and incorporating new findings into the LESEMP.

U.S. Virgin Islands Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program

St. Thomas, Virgin Islands

Project Goal: Develop, implement, and operate a functioning geographic information system (GIS) office for the CZM program by inventorying needs, creating a GIS database, and training the CZM staff on using the software. Create a working group of governmental, nongovernmental, and nonprofit agencies to collaborate on GIS-related work.

Virginia Coastal Program

Richmond, Virginia

Project Goal: Create a searchable, on-line resource to improve public access to coastal zone information and encourage nature-based tourism. Develop access standards for the Middle Peninsula of Virginia to aid the state in acquiring land.

If you would like more information about the 2006 state projects, please visit the fellowship Web site at www.csc.noaa.gov/cms/fellows.html or contact the fellowship coordinator at csc.fellowships@noaa.gov.

CREDITS AND INFORMATION

Fellow News is published by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Coastal Services Center to relay information about the fellowship program and provide a forum for information exchange among fellows, mentors, Sea Grant, and the Center.

Please send you questions and suggestions for future editions to

csc.fellowships@noaa.gov

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UPCOMING CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

JANUARY

13: **Ecosystem Management in New England: An Assessment of Ecosystem Governance**

Location: Bristol, Rhode Island
<http://law.rwu.edu/Academics+and+Institutes/Marine+Affairs+Institute.htm>

17–20: **8th Annual Southern and Caribbean Regional Meeting**

Location: Panama City Beach, Florida
www.csc.noaa.gov/seocrm/

23–25: **2006 South Carolina ArcGIS Conference**

Location: Charleston, South Carolina
www.scarcgis.org/conference.asp

26–28: **5th Annual New Partners for Smart Growth**

Location: Denver, Colorado
www.outreach.psu.edu/programs/smartgrowth/default.html

FEBRUARY

1–3: **Florida Shore and Beach Preservation Association's 2006 National Conference on Beach Preservation Technology**

Location: Sarasota, Florida
www.fsbpa.com/seminar.htm

13–14: **International LiDAR Mapping Forum**

Location: Denver, Colorado
www.lidarmap.org

13–16: **Aquaculture America 2006**

Location: Las Vegas, Nevada
www.was.org/Meetings/ConferenceInfo.asp?MeetingCode=AA2006

20–24: **American Geographical Union 2006 Ocean Sciences Meeting**

Location: Honolulu, Hawaii
www.agu.org/meetings/os06/

22–24: **Annual NOAA Coastal Management Fellows Meeting**

Location: Charleston, South Carolina

MARCH

13–16: **6th Annual Association for Environmental Health and Sciences (AEHS) Meeting and West Coast Conference on Soils, Sediments, and Water**

Location: San Diego, California
www.aehs.com/conferences/westcoast/index.htm

For more information on upcoming events, please visit www.csc.noaa.gov/cms/conferences.html.

NOAA COASTAL SERVICES CENTER TRAINING

**Training classes are limited to project partners and NOAA line offices.*

JANUARY

10–11: Visitor Use – Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR)
12–13: Visitor Use – Delaware NERR
19–20: Project Design and Evaluation – North Carolina NERR
23–25: Public Issues and Conflict Management Coastal Community Development Specialists, New Partners in Smart Growth Conference
24–26: Public Issues and Conflict Management Wells Bay NERR

FEBRUARY

1–3: Project Design and Evaluation – University of North Carolina–Wilmington, MarineQuest
7–8: Visitor Use – Weeks Bay NERR
9–10: Project Design and Evaluation – Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant
13–14: Project Design and Evaluation – North Carolina Aquarium at Roanoke Island
22–24: Project Design and Evaluation – New York Sea Grant

MARCH

1–3: Project Design and Evaluation – Wake County, North Carolina State University Cooperative Extension
6–7: Project Design and Evaluation – University of Rhode Island
14–16: Project Design and Evaluation – California NEMO (Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials)
28–30: Public Issues and Conflict Management Georgia Coastal Management Program

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